REMARKS

Examiner has objected to the drawings because Figure 3 contains the word "AGENT" twice. Applicant is herewith submitting a new Figure 3 in which one of the occurrences of "AGENT" has been deleted.

Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of informalities on page 1, line 8 and page 5, lines 13 through 16. Applicant has amended the disclosure to correct the informalities.

Examiner has objected to claim 17 requesting the word "stores" be substituted for the word "store". Applicant has amended claim 17 to make the substitution.

Examiner has rejected claims 5 through 8 and 11 through 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has canceled claim 8. Applicant has amended claims 5, 11 and 17 to correct typographic errors. Applicant believes these claims now are clear as to the relationship between the managing computer and the managed computer. The claims also make clear that the agent makes updates to the specified applications when new versions of the specified applications are available on the managing computer.

Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Muller. Applicant has amended the claims and respectfully traverses the rejection as to the claims as amended.

Claim 1 sets out a method by which a managing computer manages applications residing on a managed computer. In step (a) of claim 1, an agent is forwarded from the managing computer to the managed computer. The agent, upon arriving at the managed computer, installs itself on the managed computer. This is not disclosed or

suggested by Muller. In fact Muller teaches the opposite. Muller sets out that certain basic tasks are performed by the management server. These basic tasks include installing OperationsCenter agent software on managed nodes. See the third bullet listed on page 69. Thus installation is done by the management server and not by the agent.

Substep (a.1) of claim 1 indicates that the agent makes updates to the specified applications when new versions of the specified applications are available on the managing computer. This is not disclosed or suggested by Muller. In fact, Muller teaches the opposite. Muller teaches that a software distributor, not an agent, is used for making software updates. See Muller at pages 180 through 182. The software distributor is run on a controller system. See page 180, lines 1 and 2.

An agent that installs itself and then is able to make updates to specified applications is a significant improvement over prior art systems. The use of an agent offloads much of the work typically done by management software operating at a centralized location.

The claims dependent upon claim 1 are also not disclosed or suggested by Muller. For example, claim 3 indicates that the agent monitors network connection speed between the managed computer and the managing computer to determine a best time to transfer data from the managing computer to the managed computer. This is not disclosed or suggested by Muller. In Muller, the agent captures and logs performance metrics for the purpose of determining whether exception conditions exists. When an exception condition occurs, the agent notifies the central analysis workstation by sending an alarm. See page 164. Muller does not disclose or suggest an agent monitoring network

connection speed between a managed computer and a managing computer *to determine a best time to transfer data.*

Likewise, in claim 10 the agent additionally downloads a specified application from the managing computer to the managed computer and installs the specified application. This is not disclosed or suggested by Muller. As discussed above, Muller teaches that a software distributor, not an agent, is used for making software updates. See Muller at pages 180 through 182. The software distributor is run on a controller system. See page 180, lines 1 and 2.

Claim 11 sets out an agent running on a managed computer managed by a managing computer. The agent includes a main engine that maintains the specified applications. Maintaining the specified applications includes making updates to the specified applications when new versions of the specified applications are available on the managing computer. This is not disclosed or suggested by Muller. As discussed above, Muller teaches that a software distributor, not an agent, is used for making software updates. See Muller at pages 180 through 182. The software distributor is run on a controller system. See page 180, lines 1 and 2.

The claims dependent upon claim 11 are also not disclosed or suggested by Muller. For example, claim 12 sets out that the agent additionally comprises a network speed sensor that monitors network connection speed between the managed computer and the managing computer to determine a best time to transfer data from the managing computer to the managed computer. This is not disclosed or suggested by Muller. In Muller, the agent captures and logs performance metrics for

the purpose of determining whether exception conditions exists. When an exception condition occurs, the agent notifies the central analysis workstation by sending an alarm. See page 164. Muller does not disclose or suggest a network speed sensor that monitors network connection speed between a managed computer and a managing computer to determine a best time to transfer data.
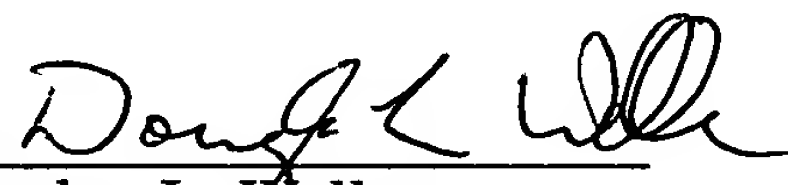
Claim 17 sets out storage media that stores programming code which when run implements an agent running on a managed computer managed by a managing computer. The agent includes a main engine that maintains the specified applications. Maintaining the specified applications includes making updates to the specified applications when new versions of the specified applications are available on the managing computer. This is not disclosed or suggested by Muller. As discussed above, Muller teaches that a software distributor, not an agent, is used for making software updates. See Muller at pages 180 through 182. The software distributor is run on a controller system. See page 180, lines 1 and 2.

The claims dependent upon claim 17 are also not disclosed or suggested by Muller. For example, claim 18 sets out that the agent additionally includes a network speed sensor that monitors network connection speed between the managed computer and the managing computer to determine a best time to transfer data from the managing computer to the managed computer. This is not disclosed or suggested by Muller. In Muller, the agent captures and logs performance metrics for the purpose of determining whether exception conditions exists. When an exception condition occurs, the agent notifies the central analysis

workstation by sending an alarm. See page 164. Muller does not disclose or suggest a network speed sensor that monitors network connection speed between a managed computer and a managing computer to determine a best time to transfer data.

Applicant believes that this Amendment has placed the present case in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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August 23, 2002
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The following amendments have been made to the Specification.

The paragraph beginning on page 1, line 8, was amended as follows:

-- ~~They~~ There are many ways computers linked together in a local area network (LAN) can run applications. Applications can be run from a central location such as a server. Alternatively, applications can be installed on individual computers. Each method has benefits and drawbacks.

--.

The paragraph beginning on page 2, line 1, was amended as follows:

-- Automated software distribution ~~system~~ systems can provide a solution to some of the aforementioned problems. However, depending upon how this is done, it can result in many additional problems.

--.

The paragraph beginning on page 5, line 11, was amended as follows:

-- For example, managed computers 21 through 24 are on a list of specified attended and unattended computers targeted by managing computer 20. If any of managed computers 21 through 24 are shut off, ~~when~~ managing computer 20 will periodically ~~checks~~ check the shut off managed computer and ~~pushes~~ will push the agent to ~~targeted~~ the managed computer as soon as managing computer 20 detects the managed computer is turned on.

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The following amendments have been made to the Claims.

Claims 1 through 7, 9 through 11, 16 and 17 have been amended as follows:

1   1.   (Amended) A method by which a managing computer manages

2 applications residing on a managed computer, the method comprising the

3 steps of:

4   (a) forwarding an agent from the managing computer to the managed

5 computer; and,

6   (b) running the agent, upon arriving at on the managed computer, the

7 agent performing the following substeps:

8   (ba.1) installing itself on the managed computer; and,

9   (a.2) maintaining specified applications residing on the

10 managed computer, including:

11   :   making updates to the specified applications when new

12 versions of the specified applications are available on the managing

13 computer, and

14   (b.2) performing requests made by the managing computer.

1   2.   (Amended) A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (ba) the agent

2 additionally performs the following substep:

3   (b.3a.3) detecting lost network connections.

1   3.   (Amended) A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (ba) the agent

2 additionally performs the following substep:

13

3 (b.3a.3) monitoring network connection speed between the managed

4 computer and the managing computer to determine a best time to transfer

5 data from the managing computer to the managed computer.

1 4. (Amended) A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (ba) the agent

2 additionally performs the following substep:

3 (b.3a.3) monitoring integrity of specified applications within the

4 managed computer to ascertain when repair is needed.

1 5. (Amended) A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (ba) the agent

2 additionally performs the following substep:

3 (b.3a.3) monitoring communications from the managed managing

4 computer to determine when the managed managing computer desires the

5 agent to take a requested action.

1 6. (Amended) A method as in claim 5 wherein in substep (b.3a.3)

2 wherein the requested action is to uninstall an application.

1 7. (Amended) A method as in claim 5 wherein in substep (b.3a.3)

2 wherein the requested action is to stop an application.

1 9. (Amended) A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (ba) the agent

2 additionally performs the following substeps:

3 (b.3a.3) monitoring network connection speed between the managed

4 computer and the managing computer; and,

5   (~~b.4~~a.4) stopping all network applications on the managed computer

6   when the network connection speed is below a predetermined threshold.

1   10.   (Amended) A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (~~b~~a) the agent

2   additionally performs the following substeps:

3   (~~b.3~~a.3) downloading a specified application from the managing

4   computer to the managed computer; and,

5   (~~b.4~~a.4) installing the specified application.

1   11.   (Amended) An agent running on a managed computer managed

2   by a managing computer, the agent comprising:

3   an integrity sensor that monitors integrity of specified applications

4   within the managed computer to ascertain when repair is needed;

5   an action sensor that monitors communications from the ~~managed~~

6   <u>managing</u> computer to determine when the ~~managed~~ <u>managing</u> computer

7   desires the agent to take a requested action; and,

8   a main engine that maintains the specified applications ~~and performs~~

9   ~~the requested action~~<u>, wherein maintaining the specified applications</u>

10   <u>includes making updates to the specified applications when new versions of</u>

11   <u>the specified applications are available on the managing computer</u>.

1   16. (Amended) An agent as in claim ~~10~~<u>11</u> additionally comprising:

2   a network speed sensor that monitors network connection speed

3   between the managed computer and the managing computer, wherein the

4   main engine stops all network applications on the managed computer when

5   the network connection speed is below a predetermined threshold.

1   17. (Amended) Storage media that ~~store~~ stores programming code

2   which when run implements an agent running on a managed computer

3   managed by a managing computer, the agent comprising:

4   an integrity sensor that monitors integrity of specified applications

5   within the managed computer to ascertain when repair is needed;

6   an action sensor that monitors communications from the ~~managed~~

7   managing computer to determine when the ~~managed~~ managing

8   computer desires the agent to take a requested action; and,

9   a main engine that maintains the specified applications ~~and~~

10 ~~performs the requested action,~~ wherein maintaining the specified

11 applications includes making updates to the specified applications when

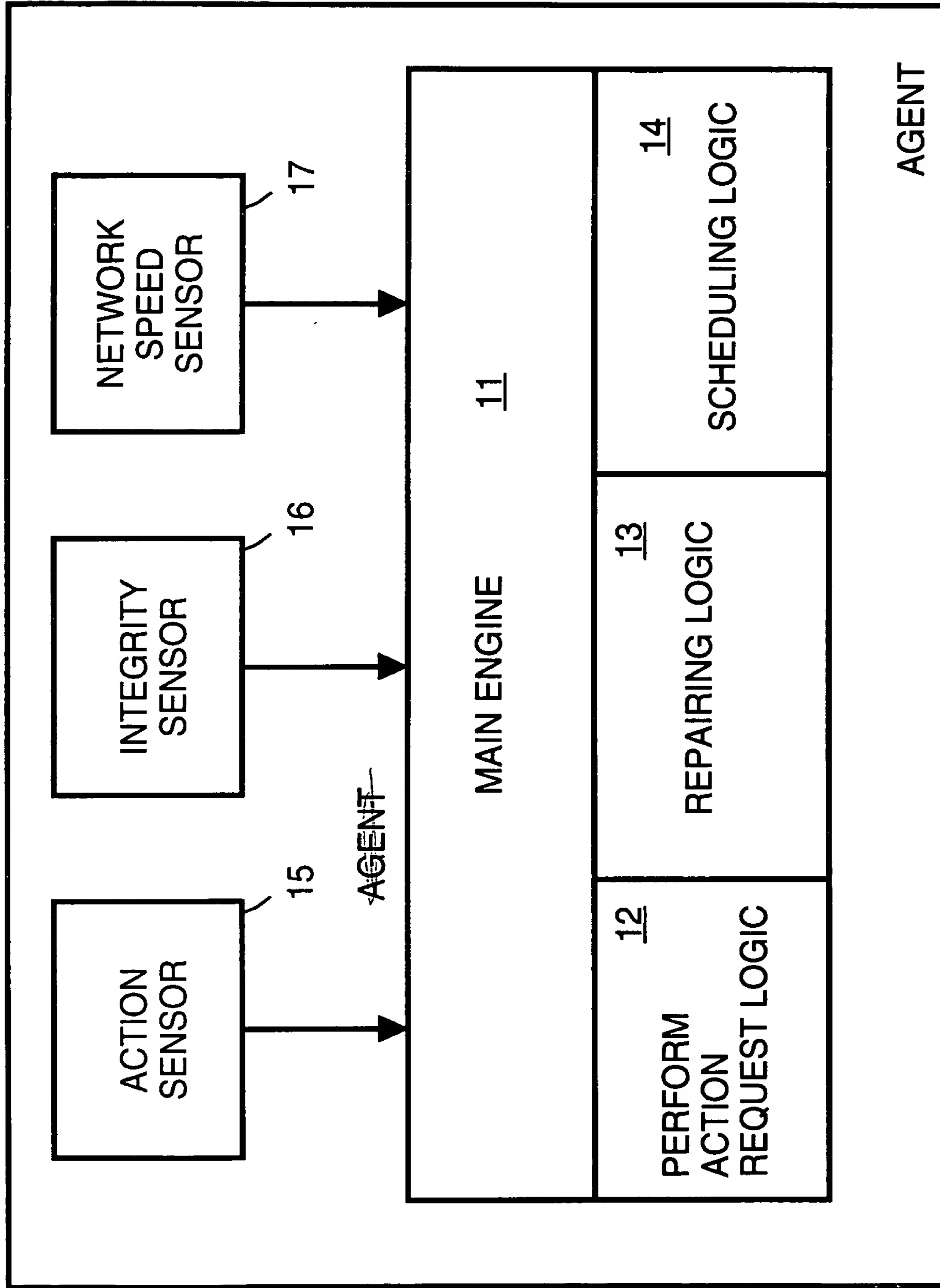12 new versions of the specified applications are available on the managing

13 computer.

FIGURE 3